

Remarks

Claims 1, 10, 15 and 20 have been amended.

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 15-19 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim applicant's invention. In particular, the Examiner has stated that applicant's reference to the term "commodity" in independent claims 1 and 15 is confusing in that the articles "a" and "the" are used in various parts of the claim and it is not clear whether one or more commodities are being referred. The Examiner has also stated that the use of the term "number" in these claims is also confusing where it does not refer to number of units.

In order to avoid this rejection, applicant has amended independent claims 1, 10, 15 and 20 as above set forth. The amended claims now use the term commodity consistently so that it is understood that the same commodity is being referred to. Also, the use of the term number is always followed by "of units" so that it is clear that what is being referred to is a "number of units."

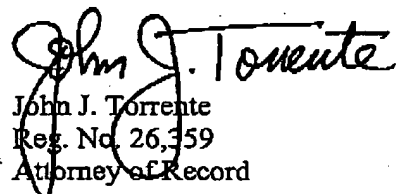
With applicant's claims so amended, it is believed that the claims now particularly point out and distinctly claim applicant's invention. Such claims thus comply with the provisions of 35 USC § 112, second paragraph.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicant's claims, as amended, satisfy all statutory requirements. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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